

MEDIA RELEASE

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***Afternoons with Amos* airs live from Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility**

Indianapolis, Indiana (September 9, 2010) – On Wednesday, September 8, WTLC-AM radio talk show “Afternoons with Amos” aired live from the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF). The historic program was the first time any live radio broadcast had ever been sanctioned to take place within a secured area of the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC).

Indiana Hall of Fame award winning broadcaster and newspaper journalist Amos Brown used his forum to inform the public about IREF’s programs, the residents’ contributions to the community and to discuss IDOC’s role in preparing offenders for reentry to Indiana communities amidst America’s economic downturn.

Among the panel of guests were Commissioner Edwin G. Buss, Marion Superior Court Judge David Certo, Steve Keever, director of Parole Services, and IREF resident inmates David Ditman, John Robinson, Gregory Edwards, Sherman Lester, Damon Graham, and James Law. A group of about 50 residents made up the show’s first studio audience.



Amos Brown takes an audience question from IREF Resident Hollis Members.

The panel answered call in questions from the community, as well as questions from the studio audience about job preparedness, parole, probation, and community transition programs. The residents openly discussed their concerns about being released from incarceration and their

interest in taking full advantage of the programs offered at IREF that help prepare them for return to their communities.

“This is the kind of dialogue we need to begin to address the issue of how we can reverse the trend of recidivism,” stated Resident Thomas Dangerfield. “By addressing these issues, we can create better opportunities for ex-offenders to be more productive in the communities we’ll soon be released to.”

Resident David Ditman, who spoke candidly about the charge that led to his incarceration more than 15 years ago and his fear of returning to society, feels that the Afternoons with Amos show provided a timely forum for IDOC officials, the inmates and the community to exchange ideals about successful reintegration. “It’s time we talk about what is needed to ensure residents are successful on re-entry,” said Ditman. “The state of Indiana has realized that it cannot continue to release the incarcerated without readying them to be productive citizens.”



Commissioner Buss responds to a call-in question.

A survey after the airing of the show revealed a general consensus among IREF residents in that they hope the public will look at IREF and its residents as an asset and positive factor in the community, and that the discussions on the show lead to positive changes within all IDOC facilities. Amos Brown agrees. “They [the residents] exemplified the potential that exists inside Indiana’s correctional facilities. Their attentiveness, intelligence, insight, good humor and spirits were an inspiration to me,” said Brown.

“This is a start,” said Resident Charles Duff-Bey. “This should not be the end of such dialogue that leads to action.”

With a weekly listening audience of about 24,900 and a 25-percent share of black listeners, “Afternoons with Amos” is the highest rated Black-oriented radio talk show in America, according to the *Indianapolis Recorder* newspaper. The show airs Monday-Friday from 1p.m.-3p.m. on WTLC-AM1310, a Radio One station.

About Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF)

The Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility is a Level-1 which maintains public safety while providing residents the skills required for successful re-integration into the community, with the ultimate goal of reducing recidivism.



Amos Brown pauses for a picture with his radio panel: James Robinson, Damon Graham, Judge David Certo, Amos Brown, David Ditman, Sherman Lester, Gregory Edwards and James Law